

1985

Travel and Exchange

various authors

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Recommended Citation

authors, various (1985) "Travel and Exchange," *GDR Bulletin*: Vol. 11: Iss. 1. <https://doi.org/10.4148/gdrb.v11i1.757>

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Prerequisite: at least one semester of college-level German.

Cost: \$1,195 plus travel (estimated: \$2,200).

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TRAVEL AND EXCHANGE

INTERNATIONALER SOMMERKURS, ERFURT 1984

This past summer I had the pleasure and privilege of studying GDR literature at the Pädagogische Hochschule "Dr. Theodor Neubauer" in Erfurt. The three week seminar on GDR literature was one of five courses offered to foreign students, the other courses including Deutsche Gegenwartssprache, Praktische Phonetik, Bildungswesen der DDR, and Gesellschaftliches Leben der DDR. All of the courses were immensely interesting; my only regret was that there was only time for GDR literature, and that was overwhelming. Concentrating on short prose pieces, the seminar offered an introduction not only to principle GDR authors, but an opportunity to see how extremely competent GDR scholars approach their own national literature. In addition to discussions of individual authors, we heard well-prepared lectures on a number of historical and theoretical subjects; a partial list would include: "Zu Problemen der kleinen epischen Form," "Entwicklungstendenzen der DDR-Literatur in den 80er Jahren," "Tendenzen der zeitgenössischen DDR-Dramatik," and "Zu Positionen der Literatur für Kinder und Jugendliche in der DDR." The bulk of our time, however, was spent exchanging ideas with our course leaders, Dr. Helga Tille and Dr. Christina Basche, who were as interested in our approaches to literature as we were in theirs.

Aside from the seminars and the considerable amount of time spent reading, nearly every day was filled with a special activity--a film, a special guest at an after dinner discussion, a

WORKS IN PROGRESS:

Barbara Mabee is writing a dissertation on the lyric poetry of Sarah Kirsch with Helen Fehervary at Ohio State University. Please, contact: Barbara Mabee

114 Forest Park Lane

Huntington, West Virginia 25705

Reinhard Andress is preparing doctoral work on the image of the author in GDR prose literature, concentrating on novels published inside and outside of the GDR since the early 1970's.

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Amerikanische Fibeln gesucht:

Fibeln der USA (insbesondere von nationalen Minderheiten) gesucht im Austausch gegen DDR-Literatur (Neuerscheinungen, ältere Ausgaben). Diese Fibeln werden benötigt für eine Arbeit über Bildungschancen von nationalen Minderheiten in den sozialistischen und kapitalistischen Staaten und den Ländern der Dritten Welt.

visit to Weimar and Eisenach, a tour of Buchenwald, and an "east/west" soccer match, in which GDR pedagogues soundly proved their athletic prowess to mostly British and Scandinavian Germanists. The overall atmosphere was always one of "Gemütlichkeit" in which strangers from western Europe, the US, and Japan became friends and were welcomed warmly by GDR teachers and scholars. I enthusiastically recommend the summer program in Erfurt as an enriching literary and cultural experience.

Roy Day
Washington University

CONFERENCES

ELEVENTH NEW HAMPSHIRE SYMPOSIUM ON THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

The central theme of the 1985 Symposium (June 21-28, 1985--World Fellowship Center, Conway, NH) will be "The GDR Today--Forty Years after the End of WW II." As in past years, the Symposium will be interdisciplinary. For further information, please contact: W. Christoph Schmauch, World Fellowship Center, Conway, NH 03818. Tel. (603) 356-5208.

INTERDISCIPLINARY SEMINAR IN GERMAN STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

From 17 June-26 July 1985 the University of California at Berkeley will sponsor an interdisciplinary seminar in German studies. The topic is National Mythology: The Question of National Identity in German Images, Myths, and Ideology. A number of DAAD scholarships which include tuition and travel allowance are available to US citizens currently enrolled or teaching at a US

university. Applications for the seminar and scholarships are available from: Department of German, Summer Seminar, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720. Completed application forms must reach the German Department no later than 15 April 1985. This seminar is co-sponsored by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), New York City.

RECENT CRITICISM

Beiträge zur Kinder- und Jugendliteratur, Folge 73. Hrsg. Gerhard Holtz-Baumert. Berlin: Der Kinderbuchverlag, 1984. 96 S. 5,- DM. Umfassender Informationsband über den jetzigen Zustand der Kinderliteratur der DDR. Der Herausgeber ist vor kurzem Präsident des Schriftstellerverbandes der DDR geworden.

DDR-Literatur '83 im Gespräch. Hrsg. Siegfried Rönisch. Berlin: Aufbau, 1984. 256 S. 10,- M. In diesem Almanach diskutieren Germanisten und Kritiker wichtige Neuerscheinungen des letzten Jahres und Fragen des aktuellen Literaturprozesses.

Freitag, Manfred und Joachim Nestler. Aus dem Lebensbild ein Sinnbild formen. Potsdam-Babelsberg: DEFA-Studio, 1984. 100 S. 6,- DM. Aufsätze, Reden, Gespräche der beiden Filmautoren zu eigenen Schaffensfragen und zur Entwicklung des Spielfilms in der DDR.